For Immediate Release
April 13, 2007
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

USACE Installs New 132kv Overhead Lines South of Iraq

By Mohammed Aliwi
Gulf Region South

Iraqi laborers pour concrete to set a steel power transmission tower into place on an electrical project near An Nasiriyah, Iraq. (USACE photo by Mohammed Aliwi)

DHI QAR, Iraq - To meet the goal of reducing electrical outages and modernizing electrical distribution before the summer heat increases air conditioning demands, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is working on a new power transmission project in An Nasiriyah.

According to Lew Tyler, Gulf Region South project manager, the base and supporting structure for a 132 kilovolt overhead power line will be built in the vicinity of an existing line between the Nasiriyah Power Plant and the Ash Shatra substation. “The new electrical line will ease the overloaded condition on the existing power line and will supply power to the Nasiriyah Water Treatment Planet (NWTP) and several local neighborhoods,” he said.

Michael Fellenz, GRS project engineer, said that the transmission line project will provide relief to an existing overloaded distribution system in a more efficient and safe manner. “Since electrical service has been improving in Iraq,” he said. “Projects of this kind will lower the incidence of power outages and help modernize the electrical power system.”

“The main reason for the lack of electricity production in Iraq is that the older equipment that has been destroyed over time and by sabotage,” he said. “This project will lower the load rates on the old overload feeders and will effectively modernize the electricity transmission and increase local area jobs. It will also provide

An Iraqi laborer prepares to set a steel power transmission tower foundation on an electrical project near An Nasiriyah, Iraq. (USACE photo by Mohammed Aliwi)

Iraqi laborers erect a steel power transmission tower to hold 132kv overhead power lines for a U.S. Army Corps of Engineer project near Al Nasiriyah, Iraq. (USACE photo by Mohammed Aliwi)

the Ash Shatra district with the appropriate conveyance feeders of the power needed to help keep the power stable."

Tyler added that engineering services, which will be provided throughout the contract duration, will include all design, supply, construction and commissioning activities for the project. "Design functions will include the preparation and submission for review by the (Iraqi) government of all design calculations, construction drawings, test programs and methodologies, and as blueprints," he said.

Fellenz said that the construction functions include activities such as preparation and submission for review by the government of vendor data, vendor profiles, catalogs, and production of all equipment including all required type and routine tests, factory acceptance tests, as well as supplying all equipment to site to enable completion of the line as defined in the scope of work.

"The contractor's responsibility is to ensure that the equipment and system warranties are valid during the construction and commissioning stages of the projects, and are transferred to the Iraqi Minister of Electricity (ME) on project completion," said Tyler. "The contractor will have sole responsibility to liaise with the ME in pursuance of any additional information and permits."

He added that the project will help alleviate increased demands for electricity with the hot summer months ahead.

Note: *Mohammed Aliwi is a media relations officer with the Gulf Region South District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Iraq. For more information, contact Betsy Weiner, public affairs officer at (540) 542-1528 or email requests to CEGRD.PAO@tac01.usace.army.mil. For more information on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Iraq, visit www.grd.usace.army.mil*